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Notebook - June-July 1970

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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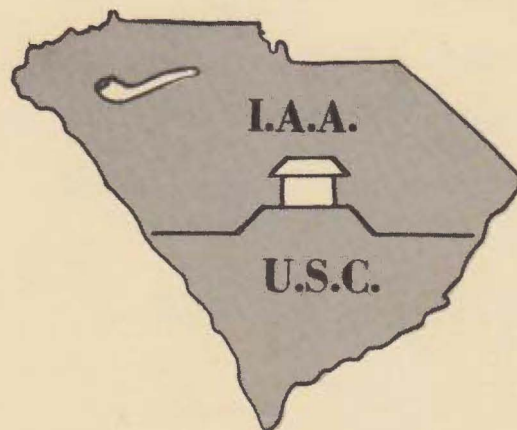
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THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

NOTEBOOK

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA • COLUMBIA



A monthly report of news and activities of mutual interest to the individuals and organizations within the framework of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina and for the information of friends and associates of the Institute.

ROBERT L. STEPHENSON, EDITOR

THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

The University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Ph. 777-8170

STAFF

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director and State Archeologist

Mr. John D. Combes, Assistant Director

Mr. Stanley South, Archeologist

Dr. E. Thomas Hemmings, Archeologist

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Mr. James L. Michie, Research Affiliate, Columbia, S. C.

EDITOR'S PAGE

On June 1 John Combes returned to the fold after a nearly ten months leave at the University of Kansas. John took an academic leave in mid-August to begin work toward a doctorate in anthropology. His year went well but he reports that they kept him busy. He is using the results of his Keowee-Toxaway studies for his dissertation subject and becoming much involved with Cherokee "ethno-archeology."

During the third week of June, I flew to Mobridge, South Dakota, at the invitation of Dr. William M. Bass to aid in a search for the cemetery area at the Potts Village Site (39C019). I excavated the village here in 1961 and Bill wanted to include the burials as a part of his overall physical anthropology studies of the Plains. We completely failed and did not find a bone despite five days of search using scraper cuts and hand digging. One thing we learned was that these people did not bury the dead in or around the village. It was an enjoyable trip and we visited many of the sites in the Mobridge area. As with most of the sites there, the Oahe Reservoir is washing over the Potts Village house area.

As usual several talks were given during the period to various organizations over the state. The Lions Club, the Sumter Historical and Literary Society and various others.

Activities continued with the Underwater Salvage operations. The official Rules and Regulations set forth to administer the law were approved by the Attorney General's office. Artifacts, Incorporated and Shipwrecks Incorporated are at work with their licenses and permits. This has been rather slow going but the efforts to set these regulations properly so that they will need minimal changes in the future should be worth the early growing pains we are experiencing now.

We continue to need manuscripts for the NOTEBOOK. Please send them to us when you can.

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director
Institute of Archeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

EXCAVATIONS AT THE PRICE HOUSE SPARTANBURG COUNTY

The Spartanburg County Historical Association is preserving and restoring the Price House a few miles south of Spartanburg. Mr. Edward S. Tennent and Mrs. Peggy Gignilliat, acting for the Association, asked the Institute to conduct archeological investigations of the house before restoration was begun. In June 1969 John Combes and Paul Brockington examined the site and recommended brief excavations.

Funds became available the next year and Stanley South with a crew of six conducted excavations from June 8 to 19, 1970 revealing the main archeological features of this pre-1800 structure. Mr. South and members of the Institute Laboratory Staff spent the rest of June and all of July preparing a report of the work. We are indebted to the Association for funding the field portion of this work.

The 2 1/2 story house with its rear wing is still standing, though deteriorating, and is an architecturally significant structure. Excavations were conducted around the main house and in the yard on both sides of the house as well as between the house and the rear wing. Foundations of previously unknown structures on both the east and west sides of the main house were archeologically revealed as were walkways, a large cold cellar, a stone-lined well, a brick patio and the original footings for the porch of the main house.

The types of artifacts, especially the kinds of bricks and some of the ceramics clearly indicate a sequence of building and suggest some dates. The main house, the structure to the east of the house (probably a kitchen), the cold cellar, the stone-lined well, the front porch and some of the walkways were built in the 1790's, probably about 1794, when Thomas Price acquired the property. The standing rear wing, the structure to the west of the main house, some of the walkways, and remodeling features of the porch. All represent construction in the 1820's, a short time after Thomas Price died.

The store and post office operated by Price are said to have been located across the old road from the main house. Probing and exploratory tests in this area revealed only the foundations of an old barn. Further testing might reveal that this barn was built upon the old post office. The post office is known to have existed somewhere here prior to the 1820's as it is indicated on the Mills Atlas of 1825. The name Price's Post Office has thus become attached to the house but there is no evidence of the post office having been in the house.

These brief excavations at the Price House open the way to sound restoration policy. Some additional archeology may be required, depending upon the extent of restoration undertaken. The Association has employed Mr. Henry Boykin, of Camden, one of the best historic architects available, as a consultant.

A CEREMONIAL CENTER AT THE CHARLES TOWNE SITE

by Stanley South

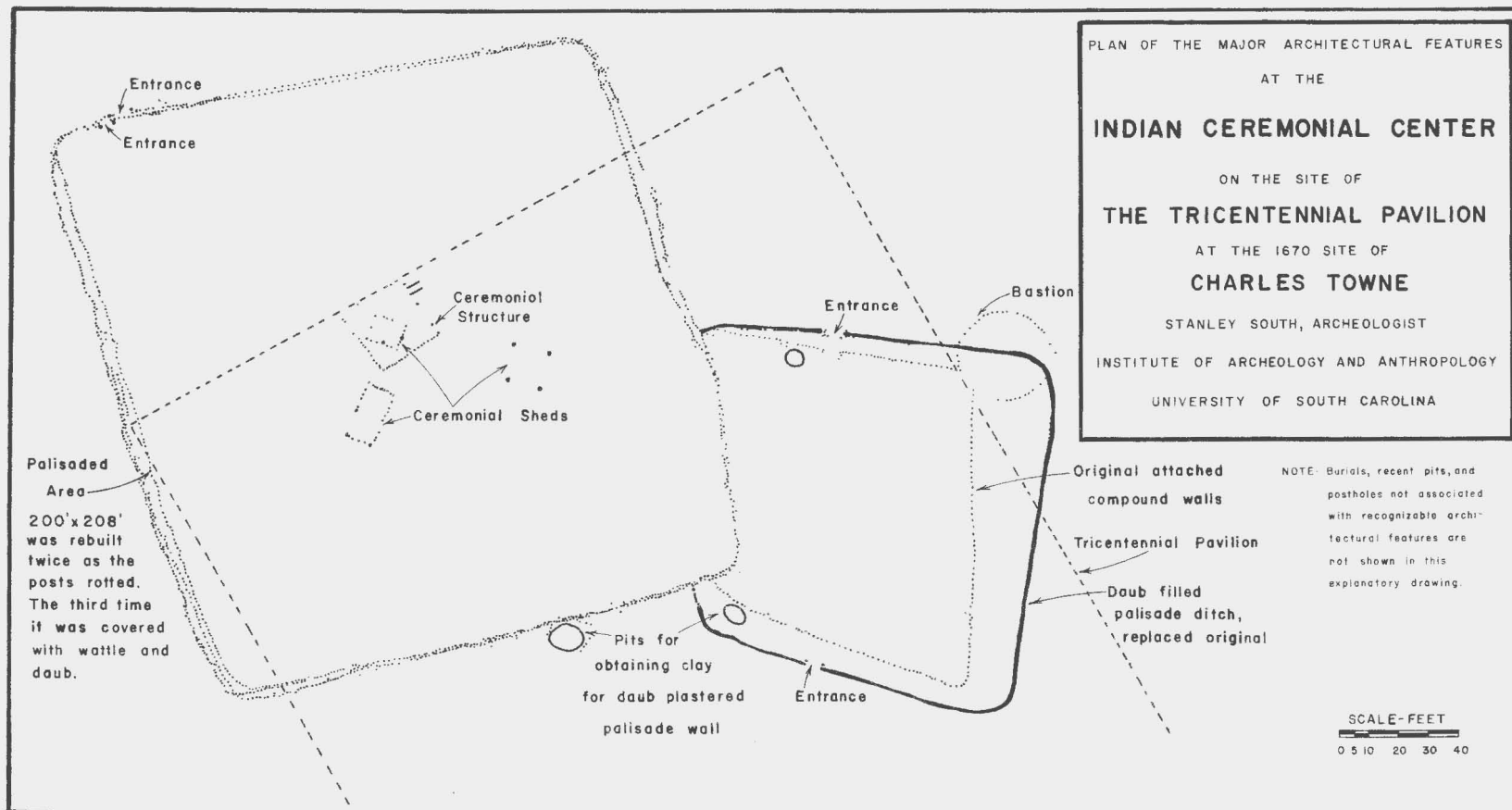
During the excavation of the site of the 1670 settlement of Charles Towne on the south side of the Ashley River in Charleston, South Carolina, a request was made by the Tricentennial Commission for a survey of the site chosen for location of the exhibit pavilion. This project was expected to take two days of exploratory trenching in order to determine if any features were present that should not be destroyed by the construction of the pavilion. The two day project revealed a Pee Dee Complicated Stamped, an incised vessel, one burial, and a line of postholes for a palisade. Due to these discoveries it was three months before the project was brought to an end by the construction of the Tricentennial Pavilion on the site.

This report is a general summary of the features found during this salvage project. The palisade enclosed an area generally two hundred feet square, and was found to have been rebuilt twice after the original construction. The first two palisades were not plastered, but the third had been covered with red clay daub, fragments of which were found in the postholes. Near the center of this compound, postholes for a structure with entranceway trenches were found. At the time of the first rebuilding of this compound an additional compound was constructed adjoining the north corner of the original enclosure. This enclosure is of particular interest in that it had a circular row of postholes at the west corner, measuring 32 feet across, which represented a bastion for protection of the entranceway found between this bastion and the original two hundred foot square compound wall. Destruction of the site by the pavilion construction prevented an examination of the features inside this smaller bastioned enclosure.

Inside the larger palisaded area a central building was represented by postholes and a pair of entranceway trenches. This structure was apparently the central focus within the palisaded area at the time of its original construction. At a later time, probably at the time the third palisade was constructed and plastered with clay daub, clay daubed sheds were constructed over the site of the original centrally located structure. These sheds, measuring 13 by 13, 10 by 20, and 10 by 12 feet were possibly square-ground sheds, or perhaps, communal corncribs such as those described by John Lawson. He mentions corncribs standing on eight posts and completely plastered with clay. The square-ground interpretation may be more valid, however, in relation to the enclosed compound which was apparently ceremonial in nature.

A number of burials, both flexed and bundle, were found inside the palisaded area. One of these was a multiple bundle burial containing a polished stone disc, mica fragments placed against the bundle, and one had a quantity of shell beads beneath the skull. Partial cremation was seen to have been carried out on several bundles, and one small pit contained a complete cremation. One bundle burial pit contained a small pot with an embryo beside which were seven quartz pebbles probably representing the position of a wooden or gourd rattle.

A particularly interesting feature was a Pee Dee Complicated Stamped urn



that had been placed in a pit over a similarly stamped bowl containing a smooth-surfaced, constricted-neck jar lying on its side. The layer of humus material in the jar gave no clue as to the contents it once held, and we are left to speculate why a jar would be so placed in a bowl and covered by an urn in a pit. One thought that comes to mind is that it may have held yaupon leaves for the manufacture of the "black drink".

The pottery recovered from the site has not been studied in detail but with the exception of one complete cordmarked vessel, it appears to be Pee Dee Complicated Stamped and incised. One whole incised vessel was recovered from one feature just inside the northeast palisade wall.

No evidence of contact with European culture was seen in any of the features, and it appears that the site represents a ceremonial center of the Pee Dee Focus, probably dating from the sixteenth or early seventeenth century. A connection between the group constructing this ceremonial center and the Kiawah Indians occupying the area at the time of contact in 1670 cannot be demonstrated. However, some distance away, in the fortification ditches of the 1670 colonists at Charles Towne, a number of the Pee Dee pottery fragments were recovered, as were large quantities of Deptford and other earlier pottery types. In these ditches were fragments of a burnished, nontempered ware, some of which appear to indicate influence from European ceramic forms. It is this burnished ware of the Colono-Indian type that very likely represents the ware being made by the Kiawah Indians of the 1670's and brought to Charles Towne along with the almost daily supplies furnished the colonists by the friendly Kiawah. The Kiawah Indians cannot be identified as the makers of the Pee Dee pottery found in the fortification ditches at Charles Towne, and the question as to how late Pee Dee type pottery continued to be made will have to await other studies in the area before more positive answers can be forthcoming.

JOCASSEE SURVEY AND EXCAVATIONS

During the second week of June, John D. Combes and Paul Brockington, of the Institute staff conducted a five day survey of the last remaining unsurveyed area of the Keowee-Toxaway Project. This was an intensive reconnaissance of the upper reaches of the Jocassee Reservoir area. Several new sites were recorded and several previously recorded sites were visited in the steep, mountainous canyons of the Whitewater River. This area will soon be flooded by the dam to be built by Duke Power Company on this river. The Duke Power Company has generously supported this work during the entire Keowee-Toxaway Project activities.

This work was continued during the last two weeks of June and the first two weeks of July when Mr. Combes, with Paul Brockington and a crew of four conducted excavations at two of the sites in the Jocassee Reservoir area. Most of the sites in this area are small Archaic campsites or small villages of later periods. Several other sites were also tested briefly. This completes all the anticipated field work in the Keowee-Toxaway Project. Mr. Combes is writing up the report of this work and will use portions of it for his Doctoral Dissertation at the University of Kansas.

ARCHAIC SOAPSTONE QUARRIES IN UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA

by D. W. Lowman and S. L. Wheatley
Wofford College, Spartanburg

(Editor's Note: This project was a continuation of the studies carried out last year by the Wofford College Interim Projects under the direction of Dr. John Harrington with the advice and consultation of the Institute (NOTEBOOK, Volume 1, No. 4, April 1969). The Interim Projects provide a month of special study for students on specific topics. Dr. Harrington of the geology department has organized this continuing study of the soapstone quarries as one of these projects. The present study was conducted in January 1970.)

In addition to the soapstone quarries in South Carolina reported by Buchnell (1940), eight soapstone masses have been found in an ENE-WSW line extending for 3 3/4 miles across the border of Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties, in the South Carolina Piedmont. Large worked masses of bowl fragments indicate spectacular quarry sites of the Archaic Period. Evidence for this temporal placement rests with the abundance of soapstone found by Coe (1964) in the Gaston Site regarded by him as no younger than 2000 B.C. The remarkable state of preservation of these areas justifies the placing of them on record.

The sites reported here are a part of the general complex of sites in the area, four of which were reported by Overton last year (Overton 1969) under the site numbers of 38SP11, 38SP12, 38SP13, and 38SP14. Additional sites also included in the present report WSW to ENE are the Stephens Site #1 (38SP17); the Stephens Site #2 (38SP18); the Cemetery Site (38SP19) all three being along a small tributary of Richland Creek; the Triangle Sites #1 and 2 (38SP11) that were discussed by Overton as a single site; the Pacolet River Site (38SP13) also discussed by Overton; the Hammett Grove Site (38SP20); and the Green Bethel Site (38CK1).

The locations of these sites are geologically determined, of course, by the locations of the outcrops. In general they occur in a line roughly from the vicinity of Green Bethel School in Cherokee County across the Pacolet River to a point approximately half way between the towns of Glendale and Pacolet in Spartanburg County.

At present these areas are almost uninhabited and appear much as they must have appeared thousands of years ago. This part of South Carolina is, however, achieving a steady population growth and increased industrialization. It is reasonable to expect that cultural changes may soon damage these sites irreparably. Only chance has preserved them so far. For example a bridge washed out in 1903 closing a road that left the location of one site inaccessible to developers. Similar roads elsewhere have been hard surfaced and are now flanked by houses, country stores, and other encroachments of civilization.

All of these sites except the Cemetery Site (38SP19) and Triangle Site #2 (the eastern portion of 38SP11) show evidence of soapstone quarrying in the form of circular scars on the large soapstone outcrops. Along with



Fig. 1. Incomplete circular soapstone bowl in situ at the Stephens Site #1 (13SP17).



Fig. 2. Two partially completed circular soapstone bowls from between Stephens Sites #1 (38SP17) and #2 (38SP18). Bowl on left is 10 inches high; 17 inches long; 16.5 inches wide, with a 2 to 4 inch deep concavity. Bowl on right is 11 inches high; 18.5 inches long; 16.5 inches wide, with a 0.5 to 1.5 inch deep concavity.



Fig. 3. Elongated soapstone bowl fragments. Left is exterior view of bottom of unfinished bowl. Right is interior view of unfinished bowl showing tool marks.



Fig. 4. Quartzite tools found at soapstone quarry sites. Left are three tools from the Hammett Grove Site (38SP20). Center is a large tool from the Pacolet River Site (38SP13). Right is a tool from the Green Bethel Site (38CK1)

these quarrying scars numerous unfinished circular bowls are to be found in situ (Fig. 1) and two partially completed circular bowls were found between Stephens Site #1 (38SP17) and Stephens Site #2 (38SP18). These are shown in Figure 2. Elsewhere at these sites several incomplete, elongated, flat bottomed bowls and blanks for making bowls have been found (Fig. 3).

The elongated bowls were carved directly from the same huge soapstone masses as were the circular ones. One location indicates that the bowls were sometimes carved in pairs from smaller loose soapstone boulders much as Rights (1957) has shown in his report. Our studies in this Pacolet area have indicated no bowls of the usually illustrated, knobbed type.

Pieces of quartzite conglomerate, from which quarrying tools were made (Fig. 4a) were found in an excavation along the base of a large outcrop at the Hammett Grove Site (38SP20). This stone suggests transportation from west of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains. A larger quarrying tool of quartzite conglomerate (Fig. 4b) was found under the double bowl blank at the Pacolet River Site (38SP13). A search of the Pacolet River Site area produced quartzite conglomerate float of the same type in abundance suggesting a local origin for the tool. A third tool (Fig. 4c) made of quartzite of a type known in western North Carolina was found on the surface at the Green Bethel Site (38CK1).

From this study one may conclude that the elongated bowls as well as the circular ones were cut directly from the large outcroppings of soapstone and from conveniently broken fragments of those outcrops. Archaic man must have roamed over great distances for food, ranging from west of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains to the Carolina Piedmont. This is surprising in view of the cumbersome size and weight of the finished bowls. However the range of these heavy artifacts may be extended still farther to sites along the South Carolina coast where they are found more than a hundred and seventy miles from the nearest known sources of soapstone.

We wish to thank Dr. William H. Sears, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, Florida Atlantic University, and Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, for their professional assistance and advice; William A. Parker and James R. Hilton for photographic assistance; and Frank J. Anderson, Wofford College Librarian, for setting up a permanent file for the Spartanburg County Block Maps showing land ownership and for other information related to this project.

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ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The state society has continued its meetings through these two months with the usual attendance of 50 or 60 people. The paid membership is now up to a little over 125. There are still many people in South Carolina who are interested in archeology but who have not joined the society. This may be because we haven't made the society well enough known or for various other reasons. We do sincerely want to get all of these interested people involved and cordially invite them to membership and participation. The dues are low and the rewards are high.

This is an excellent opportunity for families to get together in a mutual participation hobby. It can be a most rewarding "family affair" and we encourage whole family participation. It is an excellent learning process for young or old who have an interest in understanding the past. The meetings are regularly held at the Columbia Science Museum, 1519 Senate Street, Columbia, at 8:30 P.M. on the third Friday evening of each month. For membership or other information, please write to us here at the Institute.

The June meeting included Mr. John D. Combes of the Institute staff as the guest speaker. Mr. Combes, who has been working for the past four years on the Keowee-Toxaway Project in Pickens and Oconee Counties, has spent the past school year working on his doctorate at the University of Kansas. His work in the Cherokee country has led him into a fuller study of the Cherokees at University of Kansas including ethnology and linguistics as well as archeology of the Cherokees. Mr. Combes spoke to the Society on the subject of "Implications of Ethnology and Linguistics in Archeological Research."

At the July meeting the Society was privileged to have two programs. Mr. James L. Michie, Research Affiliate of the Institute, presented a slide talk on "Excavations at the Taylor Site." Mr. Michie has been conducting excavations at this site near Columbia for several months and has documented some early projectile points associated with five hearths at the site. It is a well conducted excavation and the talk was well received. This illustrates the kind of fine contribution to archeology to be made by devoted and scientifically oriented amateur archeologists.

The second segment of the July meeting was a motion picture "Nuclear Fingerprinting of Prehistoric Pottery" presented by Mr. Karl Herde of the Savannah River Plant, A.E.C. This film explained a complex technique of tracing the origin of ceramics by neutron activation. The film was prepared by Dr. Isador Perlman of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratories in Berkeley. Another application of other sciences to archeology.

The next meeting will be August 21.

EXCAVATION OF A CHARCOAL KILN

Near the end of the excavation period at the Jocassee Reservoir, the State Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism called us to look at a site where great quantities of charcoal had been struck by park improvement activities. The site was at Paris Mountain State Park near Greenville. Mr. Combes took his crew for several days to the area to investigate. The site proved to be that of an historic charcoal kiln of the early nineteenth century (?). Here the local frontier people had prepared charcoal for blacksmith shops and other uses, a most necessary product of the times.

The site is a significant one in understanding South Carolina History and the results of the five days of excavation should add a significant footnote to the history of the upcountry. Even more significant is the sequence of events leading to this excavation. The State Park was undergoing improvements in the course of which material of presumed archeological interest was found. Work was stopped and the Institute was notified. Within a short time we had a crew on hand to investigate the site. It turned out to be significant and the site was excavated. This is another fine example of full cooperation and understanding between two state agencies working together for the common good.



archeological society of south carolina

The archeology of South Carolina represents the great cultural heritage of our state and is an important page in the total history of our country. Through the Archeological Society of South Carolina, amateur and professional alike work together to preserve our proud past. Membership in this organization can result in a better understanding of our cultural heritage and its benefit to future generations of South Carolinians.

The Society is designed to cater to all archeological interests, both historic and pre-historic. And whether you are a collector or not, you are cordially invited to attend Society meetings and to become a member.

MEETINGS. Meetings with guest speakers will be (Please print)

held at 8:30 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at the Columbia Science Museum, 1519 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

DUES. Membership dues are payable on January 1 of each year. Rates are listed below in the application. Make checks payable to the Society. Dues will include all publications of that particular year, plus voting rights and privileges.

PUBLICATIONS. Membership in the Society will entitle you to subscriptions to "South Carolina Antiquities," the official Society bulletin (quarterly), and "The Notebook," official bulletin of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, U.S.C. (monthly).

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Columbia, South Carolina 29208

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